

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IX

Subject: POLREP #10
Progress
Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident

Maywood, CA
Latitude: 33.9961640 Longitude: -118.2011630

To: Harry Allen, EPA Region 9
Dan Meer, EPA Region 9
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From: Jason Musante, OSC

Date: 11/15/2016

Reporting Period: 11/07/16 - 11/13/16

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A9AP	Contract Number:	EP-S9-12-01
D.O. Number:	0959	Action Memo Date:	9/28/2016
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	6/14/2016	Start Date:	6/14/2016
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	CAN000903494	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Magnesium fire at a metal recycling and stripping company.

1.1.2 Site Description

On June 14, 2016 at approximately 0200 hours, a fire started at the Panda International Trading (PIT) facility located at 3570 Fruitland Ave., Maywood, CA. Fruitland Ave. is a commercial/light manufacturing district. The facility holds two businesses, PIT and SOKOR Metals. PIT is a scrap metal yard that sends scrap metal out in bulk for recovery. SOKOR recovers precious metals from printed circuit boards and other electronics. The site originally consisted of several buildings, but all were destroyed in the fire. During the fire approximately 300 people on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were evacuated. From June 16, 2016 to July 11, 2016, EPA conducted emergency response activities in coordination with Unified Command partners for the removal residual ash from the streets (Fruitland Ave and [REDACTED], and segments of [REDACTED]); assessment of the evacuated residential properties; decontamination of interior and exterior of impacted residential properties; removal of ash from impacted residential yards; and fencing, stabilization and mitigation measures at the PIT/SOKOR property. Please see POLREPS 1-8 for details of these activities.

1.1.2.1 Location

The site is located at 3570 Fruitland Ave., Maywood, Los Angeles County, CA 90702 (Latitude: 33.9961640, Longitude: -118.2011630). To the south of the site is a residential neighborhood of single and multi-family homes. To the north, east and west are light industrial/commercial properties.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Please see POLREP No. 1 for initial threat determination.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On June 23, during the emergency response phase, START collected samples on the industrial property. Analytical results documented concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, and mercury above waste and/or risk thresholds. In addition to this sampling event, EPA and the START contractor conducted subsequent visits to the site to plan removal activities. During the visit on September 2, 2016, START estimated the quantities of contaminated debris, scrap metal and soil at the site. START documented the presence of ash, debris, drums and totes, electronic waste, universal waste, and batteries.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

After the initial emergency response phase residential cleanup activities were completed, EPA initiated enforcement proceedings to ascertain PRP ability to conduct removal activities at the industrial property. Through counsel, the PRPs

raised an ability to pay defense and EPA issued CERCLA 104(e) requests for PRP financial information. Concurrently, EPA began planning for a fund-lead removal action at the site. A ceiling increase and \$2 million exemption action memo was signed on 9/28/16 and EPA began preparations to re-mobilize for removal activities at the industrial property.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA has re-mobilized to the site to conduct removal activities on the industrial property. Work schedule for onsite activities will be Monday thru Friday from 0700 hours to 1700 hours. This work schedule was intended to minimize disruptions to the adjacent residential community. Security services have been contracted to monitor the site after working hours.

11/07 – 11/13, 2016

Personnel onsite: OSC Musante, 2 START, 5 ERRS (1 RM, 3 EO, 1 TD, 1 FCA), 1 AIS

EPA:

- OSC Musante back this week to manage the site.
- LA Department of Public Health informed EPA of a resident compliant of disturbance due to heavy equipment operations. The resident's home is immediately adjacent the facility property boundary (approximately 5 feet) and noise/vibrations are impacting them. Community Involvement outreach was conducted with the resident for an offer of voluntary temporary relocation, which was accepted on Friday 11/11.
- The PRP has engaged the service of an environmental contractor to broker the unburned business inventory which has value as recyclable material. Proceeds will first cover contractor costs and EPA will request that any residual monies be directed to clean up efforts. OSC Musante has requested a formal contract scope of work and safety plan from the contractor.
- Analytical results from assessment of hazardous waste piles identified PCBs (Araclor 1242) ranging from below 50ppm to 4,600 ppm in different piles. Araclor 1242 is typically used in capacitors and boxes fluorescent light ballasts have been observed in unburned areas of the site. Similar ballasts consumed in the fire may be the source the PCBs. OSC Musante is consulting with the EPA Region 9 PCBs Coordinator regarding waste disposition and assessment of the facility ground surfaces for potential PCBs contamination.

START:

- Continued air monitoring around the site perimeter for total particulates and VOCs.
- Continued air sample collection for metals in dust analysis.
- Continued personal dust monitoring for site workers engaged in activities with the potential to generate dusts.
- Collected samples from scrap metal for PCBs contamination.

ERRS:

- Sorting of debris piles in the southern and western areas of the site was begun using an excavator with thumb attachment.
- E-waste in the western area of the site was shrink-wrapped onto pallets pending disposal.
- Loading of solid waste for transportation and disposal was continued on 11/09. Four truckloads of solid waste were transported to the Chiquita Canyon Sanitary Landfill in Castaic, CA.
- Made lodging arrangement for temporary relocation of resident.
- Solicitation and award of hazardous waste disposal contract.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

EPA civil investigation has identified two PRPs for the site: the property owner and business operator of PIT and the business operator of SOKOR. Both PRPs have claimed an inability to pay for cleanup at the industrial property.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

See daily activities description above.

Date	Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal
11/02/16	C & D	solid	15 y3	non-haz		Chiquita Canyon Landfill - Castaic, CA
11/02/16	C & D	solid	15 y3	non-haz		Chiquita Canyon Landfill - Castaic, CA
11/02/16	C & D	solid	15 y3	non-haz		Chiquita Canyon Landfill - Castaic, CA
11/02/16	C & D	solid	15 y3	non-haz		Chiquita Canyon Landfill - Castaic, CA
11/02/16	C & D	solid	15 y3	non-haz		Chiquita Canyon Landfill - Castaic, CA
11/02/16	Scrap metal	solid	15 y3	non-haz		SA Recycling - Carson, CA
11/03/16	Scrap metal	solid	15 y3	non-haz		SA Recycling - Carson, CA
11/03/16	Scrap metal	solid	15 y3	non-haz		SA Recycling - Carson, CA
11/03/16	C & D	solid	15 y3	non-haz		Chiquita Canyon Landfill - Castaic, CA
11/09/16	C & D	solid	15 y3	non-haz		Chiquita Canyon Landfill - Castaic, CA
11/09/16	C & D	solid	15 y3	non-haz		Chiquita Canyon Landfill - Castaic, CA
11/09/16	C & D	solid	15 y3	non-haz		Chiquita Canyon Landfill - Castaic, CA
11/09/16	C & D	solid	15 y3	non-haz		Chiquita Canyon Landfill - Castaic, CA

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Removal of solid and hazardous wastes from the industrial property.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

- Construction of a debris screen along the southern property boundary with residential properties.
- Effluent dust monitoring and sampling around site perimeter.
- Segregation of solid and hazardous waste streams from debris piles at the site.
- Offsite transportation and disposal of solid wastes by CalRecycle contractor.
- Characterization of residual debris piles for hazardous waste disposal.
- Offsite transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes by EPA contractor.
- Additional assessment sampling across the site to confirm removal of hazardous substances and/or identify areas requiring subsurface soils removal.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

- Transportation and disposal of solid waste materials by CalRecycle contractor.
- Segregation of solid and hazardous waste streams from debris piles at the site.
- Transportation and disposal of hazardous waste materials.

2.2.2 Issues

Coordination with PRP PIT regarding their interest in fire cause investigation and recovery of unburned "business inventory" from the property.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

Costs below are the estimated cumulative costs to date for emergency response phase and removal phase actions.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,054,538.00	\$945,462.00	47.27%
IAGs - PST	\$150,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$110,000.00	73.33%
START	\$1,000,000.00	\$514,565.00	\$485,435.00	48.54%
SERAS	\$150,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$120,000.00	80.00%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct	\$160,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	50.00%
USEPA - InDirect	\$2,300,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,300,000.00	100.00%
Total Site Costs				
	\$5,760,000.00	\$1,719,103.00	\$4,040,897.00	70.15%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

Unified command was dissolved after the return of information packets to affected residents of [REDACTED] EPA is now the lead agency for removal actions at the industrial property.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA): EPA continues coordination with CalEPA regarding cleanup goals and any need for state oversight of potential future PRP-lead activity. OSC Musante has been coordinating with the CalEPA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Office of Criminal Enforcement investigation at the site.

California Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is participating in removal activities on the industrial property by providing offsite transportation and disposal of solid waste materials. CalRecycle contractor American Integrated Services, Inc. (AIS) will be providing these services.

CDC/ATSDR ERP: OSC Musante requested a consultation to provide an action level for fugitive total dust at the site. ATSDR recommends an action level for respirable particulate matter protective of public health of 150 ug/m³ PM₁₀ based on the

California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) calculated for an 8-hour workday (50 ug/m³ PM₁₀ 24-hour). Continuous real time air monitoring should be conducted in the hot zone as well as the perimeter fence line and in the residential areas to

ensure concentrations do not exceed an average of 150 ug/m³ PM10 or a ceiling of 279 ug/m³. At these concentrations, dust suppression methods should be in place to prevent migration of fugitive air emissions.

LA County Department of Public Health (DPH): EPA continues to coordinate with DPH regarding public concerns of exposures during the fire. DPH has resources available to residents for health evaluations.

4. Personnel On Site

Please see the operations section.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

The website for this site is located www.epaosc.org/FruitlandMgFire.

Additionally, site for the public has been set up at www.epa.gov/ca/response-fruitland-avenue-magnesium-fire

6.2 Reporting Schedule

POLREPs will be distributed weekly on Tuesdays to describe activities of the previous week. The next POLREP will be sent on November 22, 2016

7. Situational Reference Materials

See the Fact Sheets in the Documents Section.